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Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 358



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24 June 1982

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EDITORIAL PRODS GOVERNMENT ON WASTE DISPOSAL ACTION

Melbourne THE AGE in English 3 May 82 p 13

[Editorial]

[Text]

UNTIL the environmentalists became active a decade or so ago, industrial waste disposal was not considered a pressing problem. Effluent was pumped into streams and rivers with hardly a second thought; while toxic waste was dumped into tips or quarries with an equal lack of thought about the consequences. Only when, as happened in America, water sources became polluted and dumped chemicals began to be linked with an increase in cancer, birth defects and other ailments among people living near the dumping grounds, did the authorities begin to show concern. In Australia there have been a few such incidents, the most notable of them being at Byron Bay, on the north coast of NSW, where recent investigations showed that, following 40 years of sandmining, there were unacceptably high levels of radioactivity in 24 homes and in other parts of the town.

In general, though, Australians have taken comfort in the thought that the problem is not a serious one, and that abuses — if they occur at all — are few. A report prepared by the House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation, and tabled last week in Parliament, gives the lie to that. What it says in a nutshell is that there is no reason to be complacent; that the storage, transport and disposal of millions of litres of hazardous

chemicals is generally unregulated and often unsafe; that the present regulations applying to hazardous long-life radioactive waste are far from adequate; and that much of the hazardous chemical waste being produced in Australia is being dumped illegally.

There is some comfort for Victorians in the finding that, together with NSW, Victoria has made considerable progress in providing regulations and facilities for the disposal of hazardous waste. But, as the report also notes, pointing the finger particularly at Queensland, "some other States behave as though these hazards do not exist". The report is an important one and deserves to be treated by the States as such. If they do not put their own houses in order, the Federal Government should do as the report suggests and legislate to control both the transport and disposal of hazardous waste. The present situation where Australia has no compulsory controls over the use, transport and ultimate disposal of chemicals for commercial and industrial use is patently inadequate; and the States, as well as the Federal Government, have a clear duty to the public to see that such controls are introduced, and that industry is made to accept responsibility for safely disposing of its waste products.

CSO: 5000/7544

QUEENSLAND HAZARDOUS WASTE PROBLEM SAID TO NEED LEGISLATION

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 3 May 82 p 3

[Text] A former chemist at the Willawong waste disposal site yesterday called for legislation to monitor the generation, transport and disposal of toxic wastes.

Mr Ralph Carlisle, a spokesman for the Council on Environmental Hazards, said Queensland's hazardous waste problem would not be resolved until this "cradle to grave" approach was implemented.

Mr Carlisle said construction of a proper waste treatment plant would be inadequate without supportive legislation, thoroughly enforced by the State Government.

Mr Carlisle exposed the problems associated with disposal of toxic "chemical cocktails" at Willawong when he gave evidence before a Federal Government standing committee hearing, last year.

He said then that five employees had left Willawong four for medical reasons, mainly kidney and liver complaints.

The House of Representatives standing committee on Environment and Conservation report was tabled in Federal Parliament last week.

Willawong was described in the report as a "disaster" and the report said there was "grave cause for concern".

Mr Carlisle said yesterday recommendations of the report should be implemented.

These included the introduction of State Government legislation which required the licensing of generators, transporters and disposal sites of hazardous wastes.

He said there should also be a multi-docket system for the movement of such wastes.

"The legislation should also require generators of waste to give, to the appropriate authorities, any information which may be required for proper disposal of the wastes," Mr Carlisle said.

He said the legislation should further stipulate that an industrial company should carry full responsibility for the ultimate proper disposal of the waste, even if an outside company was hired to carry the waste to a disposal site.

"Industry should not be able to buy its way out of the responsibility for its wastes simply by paying a transporter to take it away," he said.

Mr Carlisle said the inadequacy of Queensland legislation regarding hazardous wastes was highlighted when it was compared to the New South Wales Waste Disposal Act.

The Council on Environmental Hazards was set up last year. It consists of a number of Brisbane scientists.

Another member of the organisation, Mr Greg Miller, showed a Willawong official infra-red photographs of chemical leakage at the site almost three years ago.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK EPA ASSISTANCE WITH WASTE DISPOSAL

Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 May 82 p 3

[Article by Bill Birnbauer]

[Text]

The State Government would ask the Environment Protection Authority to provide detailed recommendations on the disposal and storage of dangerous chemical wastes in Victoria, the Minister for Conservation, Mr Walker, said yesterday.

Mr Walker said he expected a study would take about a year and that the recommendations would be implemented before 1985, the year a House of Representatives report has suggested the Federal Government should step in if State governments failed to introduce proper disposal strategies.

Mr Walker said the EPA would be asked to recommend the safest disposal and storage methods for various chemical wastes. He said an incinerator was necessary to dispose of intractable wastes such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and that the EPA would consult interested groups, including local residents, on the best locations for the incinerator.

The EPA would also examine solidification, land fill sites and other ways of storing hazardous chemicals.

Mr Walker said luck had played a big role in the fact that Victoria had not had a big disaster in the storage, disposal and transport of toxic and inflammable chemicals. "I believe we have been lucky because most of the material has been stored in drums for eight to 10 years," he said.

"The big companies have been responsible in stockpiling the chemical waste but I believe there

has been a bit of moonlighting by smaller companies which do not have the land to store their wastes.

"There is no evidence but there are reports that smaller companies have used truck at night to take waste to old mine shafts or old quarries in the country. I fear that some of that is true."

A report by the House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation released on Thursday recommended that the Commonwealth legislate to control hazardous wastes if State governments failed to introduce effective waste disposal strategies by 1985.

It also recommended that the Commonwealth should act if State governments failed to incorporate the Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail into legislation by 1985.

The report listed several incidents of illegal dumping of chemical wastes but said that Victoria and New South Wales had made considerable progress in providing regulation and facilities for the disposal of wastes.

However, the secretary of the environmental law section of the Law Institute of Victoria Mr Kevin Zervos yesterday disputed the findings. He said Victoria had serious problems with stockpiling and the disposal of chemical wastes and said chemicals were being dumped indiscriminately or were being "flushed down the toilet".

In a submission to the EPA last year the environmental law section said: "Little or no measures are available in Victoria to deal with the disposal of intractable

waste and the longer the problem remains unchecked, the more serious the problem becomes.

"The licensing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act of 1970 have provided some form of control on waste disposal but do little to alleviate the problem of the treatment and generation of industrial waste. Past disposal practices in Victoria have left us all in a state of ignorance as to how much industrial waste must be treated and even where it is, as no public records are kept by either producers, users, or disposers."

A spokeswoman for the EPA said yesterday that more than four million litres of intractable wastes were stockpiled by companies in Victoria in 1980. At the same time, companies were producing about two million litres of waste chemicals each year.

Attempts over the past three years to build an incinerator in Victoria to burn hazardous chemicals and to establish a waste dump had failed mainly because of opposition by local residents.

Plans in 1979 to establish a waste dump at Dargile near Heathcote were abandoned when a report showed the area was susceptible to seepage.

Plans for an incinerator at Avalon and at Werribee have also been abandoned. A proposal to ship waste to France for disposal was also abandoned after pressure on the shipping company by environment groups.

Mr Walker said the Liberal Government had not investigated the problem properly and had made some stupid decisions about the location of the proposed incinerator and dumping sites. He disagreed with a recommendation in the House of Representatives report that a single national incinerator should be established in New South Wales.

He said the danger involved in transporting hazardous chemicals and the costs involved seemed to outweigh the advantages of having a national incinerator. Mr Walker said he was considering, as a temporary measure, the use of a US ship, the Vulcanus, to get rid of some of the more dangerous chemicals stockpiled in the State.

The ship had an incinerator on board which could burn dangerous chemicals offshore.

NSW GOVERNMENT BACKS DOWN ON TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 May 82 p 3

[Article by Ross Dunn]

[Text]

The State Government has backed down on its controversial proposal to build a toxic waste disposal plant at Wetherill Park, Fairfield.

Fairfield City Council was notified yesterday of the decision by the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bedford.

His decision follows opposition from the ALP-controlled council and residents, who believed the plant would become a major health risk to all of Sydney because it was only 1.2 kilometres from Prospect Reservoir and there were fears that the City's drinking water could become polluted.

Mr Bedford said: "The State Government is convinced of the urgent need to find some answer to the problems of the disposal of intractable industrial waste.

"The issue will be closely re-examined."

He would go no further on the question of an alternative site.

An Independent Fairfield Council

alderman, Mr Sam Barone, who is also the president of the local Residents' Action Group, said last night: "I am absolutely thrilled for the people of the area.

"This goes to show that there is some justice in the world after all."

Alderman Barone said the opposition to the proposal by local Labor politicians, the poor presentation of the environmental impact statement and the Federal Government's suggestion that the site could be used by all States had led Mr Bedford to change his decision.

"I think the Federal Government's suggestion was the straw that broke the camel's back," Alderman Barone said.

The Mayor of Fairfield, Alderman Keith Dunn, said last night he was delighted by the news.

"I am especially happy for the residents, but I am as yet unaware of Mr Bedford's reasons," Mr Dunn said.

"I saw him on Monday and he gave me no indication then that he would change his decision."

CSO: 5000/7544

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE SAFETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Melbourne THE AGE in English 5 May 82 p 3

[Article by Peter Roberts]

[Text] The Victorian Government is planning a public inquiry into the safety of the State's chemical industries.

• Announcing the move yesterday, the Minister for Conservation and Planning, Mr Walker, said he would propose the inquiry to Cabinet as soon as possible.

He said the Government was concerned about the safety of workers handling toxic chemicals in industry, and the dangers posed to emergency workers and the public by industrial accidents.

"The chemical industry is highly sophisticated," Mr Walker said. "With the best will in the world, even the most careful industry cannot say that workers are fully safeguarded. Unions are concerned about it — and I am concerned about it."

Mr Walker also foreshadowed:

- Significant increases in pollution fines and Environment Protection Authority pollution licence fees — now a maximum of \$16,000 a year — to pay for an expanded EPA;

- Legislation to give community and environment groups legal standing to appeal against EPA licence determinations;

- The closure of loopholes in the EPA Act, such as that which allows companies to avoid prosecution if they notify the EPA of any illegal discharges they have made.

Mr Walker said a day-long emergency at the B. F. Goodrich Chemical plant at Altona in February had underlined the dangers posed by some industries. The EPA is still preparing its report on the incident, which involved a leak in a storage tank containing toxic and highly explosive vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) — the raw material for making PVC plastics.

"The more I look into the B. F. Goodrich matter the more conscious I am that we were extremely lucky that a major explosion did not occur," Mr Walker said. "It is clear that if a major explosion had occurred, a significant number of other industries would have been involved. There may have been a chain reaction involving the whole petrochemicals complex."

Mr Walker said he was not satisfied with the public assurances given at the time by B. F. Goodrich that there was no threat of a big explosion. He said any inquiry would consider the incident, as well as the 18 VCM leakages reported from the Altona plant during the past five years.

"But it isn't just a matter to do with B.F. Goodrich," Mr Walker said. "That was a serious incident, but there are many incidents of a like kind which occur."

Mr Walker has held talks with the joint ACTU-TUC occupational health and safety unit about worker safety issues. The firefighters' union has also expressed concern about the safety of its members sent to tackle chemical accidents.

Mr Walker said firefighters arriving at the Altona site were not fully aware of the danger of the chemical involved in the accident.

"Some of the lessons learned are that we need to improve our procedures in relation to possible disasters of a chemical kind, particularly in the western suburbs. There is some evidence that the B.F. Goodrich incident was not well handled."

Mr Walker said seven Ministries would be involved in drawing up terms of reference for the inquiry, and deciding on what form an inquiry should take. He said it was important to constitute an inquiry that would lead to an improvement in safety procedures, and not simply be an end in itself.

"I am hopeful of being able to talk to Cabinet within the next couple of weeks, as soon as possible," he said.

CSO: 5000/7544

DIRECTOR OF WA CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS U.S. GRADUATE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 May 82 p 16

[Text]

A top ecology expert, Mr Thane Riney, is to prepare WA's conservation strategy.

Announcing the Government appointment, the Minister for Conservation and Environment, Mr Laurance said that Mr Riney would gather and present material prepared by government departments responsible for natural resources such as agriculture, forests, water, fisheries and wildlife.

He would also co-operate with other government and non-government organisations in preparing the draft strategy which comes in response to a worldwide call for action to conserve living resources.

Mr Laurance said that WA was fortunate in finding a scientist of the calibre and with the breadth of experience of Mr Riney.

He said that Mr Riney graduated from the University of California, majoring in natural history and zoology, in 1961 and later worked in range land management and wildlife research in the U.S., New Zealand and Africa.

In 1962, he became a consultant ecologist to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organi-

sation and from 1964 to 1973 he was based at FAO headquarters in Rome serving in various positions before becoming chief of forest conservation, wildlife and national parks.

He served for six years on the executive council of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which was responsible for preparing world conservation strategy.

FELLOW

Mr Riney came to Australia in 1978. After a short period with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service he was appointed visiting fellow at the Australian National University in 1980.

He has been serving as consultant in conservation to several Australian States and in 1980 organised a national conference on Australia's marginal lands.

The WA strategy, under the direction of a Conservation and Environment Council committee, would take about six months to prepare, Mr Laurance said.

CSO: 5000/7544

CONTROVERSY ARISES OVER RADIOACTIVITY FROM TITANIUM PLANT

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 1 May 82 p 30

[Text]

The WA Minister for Health, Mr Young, reacted angrily yesterday to allegations that the Bunbury estuary is in danger of serious pollution from the Laporte titanium plant.

He said that there was no evidence of any seepage of radioactive materials from sand dune lagoons into the estuary.

If there were any seepage it was so low as to be indistinguishable from variations in the natural radiation found in water all over the world.

Mr Young was commenting on reports that the Bunbury estuary and Leschenault Inlet were at risk as a recreation area because of pollution from Laporte.

He said that comments by an associate professor of physics at Murdoch University, Dr Phil Jennings, appeared to be politically motivated.

Dr Jennings had been reported as saying that radiation levels in the Bunbury estuary were cause for concern.

CONCERN

He called for strong action to be taken to ensure that people were exposed to as little radiation as possible.

Dr Jennings said that radiation levels near Laporte were worrying enough to put an end to the dumping of radioactive materials in sand dune lagoons beside Leschenault Inlet.

Radiation levels were already up to one-third of the maximum level recommended by Australian health authorities.

FICTION

Mr Young said that it was pure fiction to suggest that the future of the Leschenault Inlet as a recreation area was at risk.

He said that radioactive levels in estuary water

were closer to one-twentieth of the maximum levels acceptable to Australian health authorities —and not up to a third as Dr Jennings was quoted as saying.

"Radium and other naturally occurring radioactive substances are found in water all over the world, and it is not unusual to find radium in groundwater," Mr Young said.

"There is a stream of effluent flowing into the sandhills and the radioactive content of this stream is very low indeed.

"There are 8500 cu m a day of liquid effluent going into these ponds, but there is no evidence of any seepage from these ponds into the estuary."

CSO: 5000/7544

MINERS ACCUSED OF DAMAGING VEGETATION IN MINERALS SEARCH

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 8 May 82 p 24

[Article by Miranda Sadka]

[Text] Some amateur miners are causing severe damage to vegetation in their search for gold and other minerals, according to the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association.

The deputy director of the association, Mr G. Savell, said yesterday that the areas affected were in the Eastern Goldfields and the Murchison.

Amateur gold seekers had descended on the areas with metal detectors.

In the Eastern Goldfields, some metal seekers scraped off surface soil with front-end loaders and bulldozers and checked the exposed areas with detectors.

Machinery

The use of such machinery sometimes laid waste one to two hectares and in some places created pits about 60cm deep.

In the Murchison area, some prospectors loaded big, mechanised dry blowers with soil scooped up by bulldozers and front-end loaders.

Mr Savell said that pastoralists had complained to the association about the damage being done to their properties.

"The operations are ruining first-class vegetation and fodder and creating a big problem on the land," he said.

"It subjects the land to erosion from wind and rain. In fragile environments with an unreliable rainfall the land doesn't recover quickly."

Mr Savell said that the association expressed its fears about the damage at its last pastoral conference at Mt Magnet in October.

It had written to the Minister for Mines, Mr Jones, and would refer any future instances to him for action.

Mr Jones said yesterday that the Government was worried by the reports.

Some people were using front-end loaders and bulldozers when searching for alluvial gold on pastoral lease and crown land.

"The holder of a miner's right is authorised to prospect on crown land and to extract and remove samples up to 20 kilos--but with as little damage to the surface of the land as possible," he said.

Offence

"Stripping operations are a mining operation under the provisions of the Mining Act and it's an offence to carry on such mining operations on anyland without authorisation."

Mr Jones said that people carrying on such operations were liable to a penalty of \$1000 plus a fine of \$200 a day if the offence was a continuing one.

CJO: 5000/7545

BRIEFS

RADIOACTIVE FILL PROBLEM--SYDNEY--A modern hospital on the New South Wales north coast may have to be demolished because radioactive filling was used in its foundations. Radiation levels in the new wing of the Byron Bay Hospital are well above the recommended safety level, according to a Health Commission study. A spokesman for the NSW Health Minister, Mr Brereton, said yesterday the hospital block might have to be demolished if plans to remove the radioactive material failed. The Health Commission intends to drill through the floor of the building to "suck out" the radioactive filling which lies a few centimetres deep on the ground surface. If the plan fails, the 17-year-old building will be torn down. The Health Commission survey found high radiation levels in 24 houses in Byron Bay, as well as in the baby health centre and in some classrooms of the primary school. The Health Minister's spokesman said the radioactive filling tailings from sand mining carried out at Byron Bay up to 1975, could be easily removed from near the baby health centre. Mr Brereton said he expected the sand mining company, Associated Minerals Consolidated, to pay for the clean-up at Byron Bay. [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 1 May 82 p 3]

NSW NATIONAL PARK--Some of the richest and most intact Aboriginal sites in NSW are included in a new national park in the Upper Hunter Valley region announced open yesterday by the Premier, Mr Wran. The Goulburn River National Park covers about 70,000 hectares of the Goulburn River Valley and stretches from Sandy Hollow in the east to Ulan in the west. The area had been under investigation as a park since the inception of the the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967. Mr Wran said yesterday: "The Goulburn River National Park is composed mainly of rugged, undeveloped, sandstone country, with about 65km of the meandering and scenically outstanding Goulburn River flowing in a rockwalled gorge in the park for much of its length. "The area is like the Northern Territory gorge country and recreation will naturally be concentrated around the river." The park contains a number of important Aboriginal sites, including some of the richest and most undisturbed remains of early Aboriginal occupation in NSW. The area also features a number of unusual trees including black cypress pine, dawson's gum, caley's ironbark, forest redgum, scribbly gum and white box. The fauna is concentrated along the river, with species such as wallaroo, wombat, eastern grey kangaroo and emu easy to see, as well as birds such as the magnificent lyrebird, wedgetail and sea eagles, rainbow birds and numerous parrot varieties. [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 3 May 82 p 2]

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION--The former South Australian Premier, Mr Don Dunstan, will be among the speakers in King George Square next Saturday when a new conservation organisation, aimed at saving Queensland's rain forests, is launched. The Queensland Rain Forest Conservation Society has been formed in response to the loss of forest to agriculture, hoop pine plantations, residential sub-divisions, mining, and what it sees as the biggest threat--logging. Mr Dunstan, who now lives in North Queensland, will speak at the public meeting which is being held in conjunction with the Australian Conservation Foundation. The new society's secretary, Dr Aila Keto, said yesterday Queensland's rain forests included some of the most complex ecosystems on earth, equal in conservation status to the Great Barrier Reef. But the way in which they were being managed and exploited was not compatible with the conservation of their scientific, aesthetic and wilderness value. Dr Keto said rain forests were a popular but rare feature of the Australian landscape. "The public is probably unaware of the degradation which is occurring and the values being lost as a consequence," he said. Dr Keto said the society aimed at informing people of the unique value of rain forest and enlist public support to ensure conservation of the entire rain-forest system in Queensland. [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 3 May 82 p 22]

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS PROBLEM--State laws controlling the use of agricultural chemicals need to be overhauled, senior officers of the Agricultural Department say. They say there are still gaps in the relevant legislation--20 years after Victoria's worst outbreak of pesticide contamination. The deputy director-general of agriculture, Mr Bob Taylor, said it was time for laws to be tightened. "We would like to see hard line, but not draconian, legislation in the agricultural chemical area," he said. "There is room for a review--all too often people think because legislation exists it is written and fixed. The department's chemical division director, Mr R. S. Belcher, said there was no provision in the law to permit quarantine or seizure of contaminated crops, cattle or poultry. He said this could cause problems if there were a repeat of pesticide poisoning such as in Heytesbury, south-west Victoria, in 1963. "If you have chemical contamination without people being sick, then there is no power to do anything about it," he said. "Once people fall sick, it is ok, the power is there." In the Heytesbury incident no checks were made on contaminated meat sold for human consumption. "Theoretically," Mr Belcher said, "the meat would be illegal when sold, but you have to find it, and that is difficult." He said New South Wales had laws to cover such a case, and Western Australia was in the process of introducing similar legislation. [Melbourne THE AGE in English 4 May 82 p 16]

CSO: 5000/7545

INDIAN DELEGATE SPEAKS AT NAIROBI CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 82 p 3

[Text]

NAIROBI, May 14 (PTI)—India today asked the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to refrain from drawing 'over ambitious' plans and rather confine its field to a core four point programme until the critical question of its funding is resolved satisfactorily.

The core programme put forward today by the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr B B Vohra at the session of special character reflects the overriding priority given to environmental issues by the UN General Assembly while determining the international development strategies for the eighties.

It covers in essence the better management of natural and living resources, the control of pollution and improved sanitation.

Mr Vohra made it clear although the suggested core programme would need a certain re-orientation of perceptions but at

the same time it would help every one concerned, including the UNEP to have clearer idea of its objectives enabling it to relate them better to environmental realities as they actually exist.

As a result, the UNEP would improve its credibility at a critical stage in its career particularly in the eyes of the developing countries which have long felt neglected by it, Mr Vohra said.

India was one of the few countries to raise the question of the UNEP's financial situation in the plenary itself.

The situation, its leader told the plenary, was so critical that the UNEP has had to cut back almost half of its programme activities. The executive director has rightly complained that no organisation can be expected to plan effectively when it does not know when or how much funding will be provided to it, Mr Vohra said.

CSO: 5000/7056

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

WAN LI VISITS ENVIRONMENTAL EXHIBIT--Beijing, 3 Jun (XINHUA)--Comrade Wan Li visited an "exhibition on protection of China's natural environment" at the Beijing Museum of Natural History this afternoon. At the exhibition, he told responsible persons and experts of our environmental protection departments: Protecting the natural environment is a major task which will bring benefit to our posterity. Natural conditions throughout the country should be analyzed. Where the natural environment needs to be protected, we must do so. The environmental protection law must be strictly enforced, and plans for protecting the natural environment must be combined with agricultural planning. The "exhibition on protection of China's natural environment" is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Protection Leading Group under the State Council, the China Society of Zoology, the Beijing Museum of Natural History and other units. More than 100,000 people have visited the exhibition since it opened on 5 April. Comrade Wan Li visited the exhibition in the company of Li Ximing, minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, and experts of departments concerned. [Excerpt] [OW052030 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1520 GMT 3 Jun 82]

CSO: 5000/2125

VO NGUYEN GIAP ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENT DAY MEETING

BK051525 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Jun 82

[Report with recorded portions on 4 June Hanoi meeting to mark World Environment Day]

[Summary] On the evening of 4 June, the Vietnam committee for World Environment Day held a meeting in Hanoi theater to mark World Environment Day. "Attending the meeting were Vice Premier Vo Nguyen Giap, Vietnam Fatherland Central Committee Presidium Chairman Hoang Quoc Viet, leaders of various sectors and central government agencies and the people of Hanoi. (Matthew Cahill), the UN Development Program representative in Hanoi, also attended the meeting."

Vice Premier Vo Nguyen Giap delivered an opening speech. After pointing out that our party and state have shown the proper interest in the environment issue and activities, he stressed:

[Begin recording] "In the 1980's and particularly during 1981-85, the programs designed to resolve the environmental protection problems have become part and parcel of the economic and social development plan of our country. In fact, the environmental problems of our country bear the same characteristics as those of many developing countries.

"We once thought that environmental problems, namely environmental pollution, existed only in the developed industrial countries. But now, we can clearly see that in the developing countries such as ours, the protection of the environment has also become an important survival problem.

"In recent years, due to inadequate and unscientifically based knowledge, many of the environmental problems were not raised and resolved correctly according to their significance. Land, water, forest, sea, animal and mineral resources have not been protected, exploited and used rationally by us. On the contrary, our action has damaged the environment.

"Under tropical conditions with unstable biological balances, the irrational use of land and the wanton destruction of forests have quickly depleted our agricultural potentials, forest resources and forest land. Land has become depleted and fallow. Sources of water such as springs and the aquifer have dried up.

"The amount of covered forests have decreased to 30 percent or less, within the danger level. In several localities, this amount was even down to 10 percent. The annual losses of more than hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest cannot be recovered through afforestation. Many valuable and rare species of animals and vegetation which abounded in our country seem to be on the way to extinction. This will mean the loss of an irreplaceable source of production means. Losses of coal and other minerals during the

exploitation of our resources cannot be renewed to the necessary levels by a sector of the national economy. These problems must be quickly resolved.

"We have not mentioned another very important cause: The long wars of aggression in the past few decades -- especially those waged by the U.S. imperialists and the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists -- have caused serious destruction of the environment of our country on a large scale. The volume of bombs and ammunition used by them would equal the destructive force of scores of nuclear bombs and the quantity of dioxide scattered on 50 percent of our forests has destroyed or leveled hundreds of thousands of hectares of forests, causing multifarious damages to the environment of our country, and threatening our present and future generations with serious consequences if we do not take necessary countermeasures.

"The environmental problem is therefore vital and important to our country as well as to other countries of the world." [applause; end recording]

(Matthew Cahail) then read a statement by (Mochtar Patobal), the UN Environment Program director, on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Following him, Professor Dang Huu, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission, read a report on the early contributions of Vietnam to the activities of World Environment Day. The report emphasizes: [Begin recording] "We call on all people to realize more profoundly and to act more realistically upon the problems of protecting the environment and using the natural resources rationally and scientifically. Each citizen must realize that he is related organically to the world around him." [applause; end recording]

The meeting concluded amidst an atmosphere of high determination to implement Directive No 70-CP of the Council of Ministers to participate in a practical manner in the activities of World Environment Day for the sake of national construction and defense and for the people's happiness.

CSO: 5000/2125

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SOVIET-BULGARIAN MEETING--On 25 May G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, received G.P. Pavlov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Committee for the Protection of the Environment. There was an exchange of opinions on questions of further cooperation in the sphere of environmental conservation. Taking part in the talk was Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control. [TASS report] [Text] [PM011509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 82 p 4]

CSO: 5000/2125

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAUNCHES KINGSTON CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 82 Clean As a Whistle Supplement
p X

/Article by Elaine Commisiong/

/Text/ Individuals have expressed outrage at the steady deterioration in the state of our environment. Often individuals have tried to correct the situation only to fail dismally. Others have adopted a "don't care" attitude. They say: "Let someone else do it" or "Let Government see about it." The truth is, neither of these attitudes will help to correct the situation in which we find ourselves.

Streets, parks and sidewalks are filthy through our combined efforts: the businessman, the office manager, the motorist, the higgler/vendor, the pedestrian, the householder through the careless disposal of refuse have helped to reduce our surroundings to its present condition. Likewise, any corrective measures to improve it demands our co-operative efforts.

When next you walk along the streets and see garbage accumulated, ask yourself these questions:—

Why is it there?

Who put it there?

What can I do to help correct it?

"Why Is"—a complex of reasons, a lack of personal pride which is more evident in our people today. Often there is a lack of facilities for the convenient disposal of garbage.

Are garbage receptacles frequently placed, easily available for use?

This is a prime consideration if our heightened consciousness is to be translated into action.

"The Who"—is easy. We all contributed to the problem in one way or another. Either directly, by the illicit disposal of our waste, or indirectly by opting to ignore the existing condition or ignoring the opportunities provided for helping groups who are trying to do something to improve the situation.

Are you guilty of littering the streets by throwing used tissues, cigarette boxes, cigarette butts and other waste material from moving vehicles; by throwing paper and other office refuse into the nearest ditch, burnt-out building or open lot; by tossing ice cream or candy wrappers, boxed-drink containers and thoughtlessly away? If so, you must now cease from doing so.

The present problem would be relieved if this was done.

Let it be your May 24 resolution. The Civic Committee of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce through its campaign will be assisting you to maintain it.

As a first phase, four hundred (400) garbage drums are placed throughout the city. Instead of littering the streets, endeavour to use them. Help by maintaining that the garbage drums are not removed or damaged (in any way) so that their use can be sustained.

Bag It

Ten thousand Car Litter Bags are being distributed to motorists free of cost under the joint courtesy of the Civic Committee of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and the Shell Co. (West Indies) Ltd. Motorists use these containers instead of our streets. You may devise your own Car Garbage Bag by using a small plastic bag.

On the question of Commercial garbage, Office Managers and businessmen may be ignorant of the fact that they are wholly responsible for the disposal of their litter. Others, though knowledgeable of the fact are "uncaring" as to where their garbage, collected by private disposal services, is deposited.

The Civic Committee recognised the difficulties inherent in attitudes and plans to inform groups as to their responsibilities in various areas while working on a scheme which will assist the regular collection and disposal of commercial garbage to the prescribed dump at Riverton City.

The campaign hopes ultimately to end the sight of garbage accumulating on open lots and on sidewalks. The primary responsibility lies with each individual and businessman to ensure that "refuse" from his business is properly disposed of.

Stack It

Vending on streets has become "the norm" in all commercial areas and has extended to residential communities. Our plazas bear mute evidence at night of a complete lack of responsibility of both vendor and customer. How can this eyesore be corrected? On whom does the responsibility lie? If each vendor or higgler would see to it that the husks from his/her coconuts are carefully collected, that the skins of the fruits sold are not carelessly thrown around the stall but that all litter originating from his/her stall is carefully collected and removed, then there is no doubt that the conditions of our plazas could be greatly improved.

All of this seems to indicate the importance of both corporate and individual resolutions to see it as our duty to keep our surroundings clean.

Jamaicans are phenomenally house proud. We take personal pride in our homes. What is necessary is to translate this sense of responsibility and pride to our larger environment. It is our duty. Together, we can make it possible, we can make Kingston "Clean as a whistle" and beautiful again.

/Editor's Note: The foregoing article is part of a 24-page "Clean As a Whistle Supplement" to THE DAILY GLEANER devoted exclusively, in articles, photo essays and advertisements to a Kingston clean-up campaign concentrating on garbage, trash, waste disposal and related environmental factors. Articles include helpful hints on garbage disposal, messages from political and civic leaders, the relationship of environment and health and how the business community can help in the clean-up drive. One item notes that as of 24 May, 400 garbage bins emblazoned with the logo and slogan--"The City's Beauty Is Our Duty"--of the campaign, will be distributed throughout Kingston.

CSO: 5000/7546

REGIONAL DROUGHT-RELIEF COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 31 May 82 p 1

[Article by Solomon Lotshe]

[Text]

PEOPLE in the North East District have been told that Government has provided P22 million to be used for drought relief.

The people were told by the Minister of Public Service and Information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, that Government had established drought-relief committees at regional level chaired by District Commissioners working closely with Village Development Committees and Parent Teachers' Associations.

Mr Kwelagobe said the committees were given the task of distributing drought relief food to needy people. He noted that TB patients, expectant and nursing mothers, pre-school and school children, and remote area dwellers would be the beneficiaries of drought-relief food.

The Minister said extra drilling

machines had been bought to sink more boreholes in areas where there are acute water problems. He said in other worst-hit villages, water would be supplied in drums.

Mr Kwelagobe advised the drought-relief committees in the councils, to identify labour-intensive projects where participants would be paid P1.50 per day. He said cattle would be vaccinated against botulism and be given the vitamin A vaccine free of charge. He also said supplementary stock feed would be sold to farmers at a reasonable price.

Minister Kwelagobe noted that Government would provide about P23.5 million for the Arable Land Development Programme to assist farmers to improve their agricultural production. He encouraged small farmers to come forward and take advantage of the scheme.

The Minister who introduced

the new specially-elected Member of Parliament, Mr Chapeon Jabavu Butale, also briefed his audience about the present bleak economic situation in the country and which he said was brought about by low prices of diamonds on the world market.

At Gububane the people complained that the 80 thebe which would be paid to women involved in stamping sorghum to be used for drought relief was too little. They argued that the VDC Chairmen at Zwenshambe,

Mr Kuswane complained about the poor reception by Radio Botswana in the area and requested the Minister to improve the situation.

Throughout the tour, people complained about the shortage of trucks used for sending cattle to the BMC and asked the minister to bring the matter to the attention of the Government.

BOPA

CSO: 5000/5764

BOTSWANA

BRIEFS

BRITISH DONATE VEHICLES--The British High Commissioner of Botswana, Mr W. Jones, last week, Thursday, handed over three vehicles to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, to be used to distribute food and goods related to the Drought Relief Programme. The three vehicles, worth P100 000 were earlier used by the British Government to map some areas in Botswana and the project got finished over a year ago. The Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, thanked the British Government for the offer and said since the vehicles are four-wheel-drive they will be suitable to be used in difficult areas of this country where drought is more severe. The three vehicles are five-ton trucks and are still as good as new. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 10 May 82 p 1]

SEFALANA DONATION--Sefalana Sa Botswana Milling Company on Monday donated 72 tonnes of maize meal to the Botswana Government in response to the President Dr Q.K.J. Masire's drought appeal to both international and local organisations. The donation was received on behalf of the Government by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi who in his remarks said that it appeared that local companies had the impression that only international bodies could help the Government when there were difficulties. He said during the past years like 1965 and 1966 only international donors responded positively to the drought relief programme adding that Sefalana Sa Botswana was going to be an example to other local companies which he said had the means which are starving in the country. On his part an official of the company disclosed that the maize meal which is a product of Sefalana in Lobatse was mixed with milk and it was going to be supplied to pregnant women, TB patients and related patients. [Excerpt] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 21 May 82 p 1]

SWEDISH AID--Another major contribution is to be made to Botswana's Drought Relief Programme. This time the donation comes from the Swedish Government. A press release from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning states. "The Swedish Government has decided to make a grant of Pl.7 million to Botswana's Drought Relief Programme. The grant will be used for drilling rigs, vehicles and equipment." "This additional assistance from Sweden is intended to ease the effects of the serious drought that Botswana experiences by increasing the capacity to drill boreholes," the release states. "In the long run it is also intended to help the Department of Water Affairs to expand its ordinary village water supplies programme." The release adds:

"In response to the offer the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi thanked the Swedish Government for its contribution to alleviate the water problems which face majority of Batswana in the rural areas as a result of the current drought problems." [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 24 May 82 p 2]

EEC APPROACHED--The President, Dr Quett Masire, has disclosed that the Government recently made a request to the European Economic Community (EEC) Botswana's major beef market to lift the ban on cattle movements across veterinary cordon fences in an attempt to assist the trekking of cattle from drought stricken areas to comparatively better grazing elsewhere. Dr Masire said the issue was being considered and that hopefully the EEC would respond to the request either at the end of this month or early next month. The President was addressing residents of Lerala on Thursday. He said the EEC had agreed to the Government's request to reopen the sale of cattle at some parts of the country which were closed since the outbreak of the foot and mouth disease. Dr Masire urged farmers to sell more of their cattle to the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC). He praised the residents of Lerala for actively involving themselves in development projects despite the adverse climatic and economic conditions. Talking about drought, Dr Masire assured the people that the labour intensive scheme would be extended to many parts of the country to provide an alternative source of income for the rural population. The scheme, the President said, was also geared at promoting development in general. [Excerpt] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 23 May 82 p 1]

CHINESE AID--The Chinese Red Cross Society has donated 10 000 US Dollars to Botswana Government to be used in the Drought Relief Programme. The cheque which was received by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi yesterday, was presented by the Chinese Ambassador to Botswana Mr W. Rensa, who expressed sympathy and support of the Chinese to Botswana's present deplorable drought situation. In his remarks the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, thanked the Chinese Red Cross Society for their quick response to the President's appeal for international assistance. This was the second donation since the President Dr Q.K.J. Masire made an appeal for the international assistance. America which was the first donor presented 25 000 US Dollars to the same Minister. BOPA [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS inEnglish 7 May 82 p 1]

FREE VACCINES--The forthcoming Government Drought Relief package, including the free supply of Vitamin A and Botulism vaccines for livestock are to be made available to farmers in affected areas throughout the country, the Minister of Public Service and Information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe informed his constituents in a well attended kgotla meeting at Mogonon in thee Kweneng District recently. Mr Kwelagobe explained that the Government had taken the action in an attempt to help farmers affected by drought. He urged his constituents to be prepared for the relief programmes, which he said would be channelled to them through their local development committees. He also advised them that the food would first be directed to expectant and breast-feeding mothers, school children and other needy persons. [Excerpt] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 5 May 82 p 1]]

CSO: 5000/5764

EFFORTS TO COPE WITH DROUGHT REPORTED

Harare THE HERALD in English 12 May 82 p 7

[Text] Bulawayo. Since the beginning of the year the Cold Storage Commission has paid more than \$5 million to communal farmers for cattle bought at cattle sales in communal farming areas.

With cattle bought by other buyers at the sales, communal farmers have been paid almost \$6 million this year.

The sales, dubbed Operation Rescue, form part of the commission and Government activities to offset the effects of the drought. From January 1 to May 8, 45 767 cattle have been offered for sale, a spokesman for the Cold Storage Commission said yesterday.

Of these, the CSC has bought 32 196 at an average net price of \$160 each.

Other buyers have bought 5 977 cattle at an average price of about \$120 each.

A total of 7 594 cattle were withdrawn from the sales by the owners.

In answer to a question, the CSC spokesman said that a further 2 000 cattle might have been sold had two rounds of sales (in Nkayi and Plumtree) not been postponed for security reasons.

No other sales have been postponed. The spokesman said it was expected that the CSC would be able to announce the engagement of an auctioneer by the end of this week.

The former contract auctioneer for communal land cattle sales, Tunmer (Midlands) Pvt. Ltd, withdrew their services because of the security situation.

Boreholes Needed to Beat the Drought

Bulawayo. About 140 boreholes and between 40 and 50 sand extraction points are needed in Matabeleland's drought-hit communal areas, the provincial water engineer, Mr Jim Nurton, said yesterday.

The district councils have been asked to inform the ministry how many water points their area needs, but the information has not yet been received for all areas.

Inquiries in Harare revealed that some initial finance to launch the scheme should arrive in Bulawayo soon.

Mr Nurton said that since January this year his office has drilled 38 boreholes and cleaned nine.

Eleven drills are at work throughout Matabeleland. Five of them are owned by the ministry and six by contractors. Another two or three drills provided by contractors will join the programme next week, he said.

CSO: 5000/5755

MATOPOS PARK DAM MAY BE USED TO SAVE CATTLE

Harare THE HERALD in English 21 May 82 p 1

[Text]

BULAWAYO.

THE Minister of Water Resources and Development, Mr Cephas Msiipa, is to discuss with two other ministries the possibility of releasing water from the Matopos National Park to save cattle of the communal people who live downstream.

In an interview here on Wednesday, after his tour of Kesi and Gwanda areas, the minister said the situation in the two areas was "very serious — more serious than I thought".

He said the people there were not so much worried about this year's crop failure. They were more worried about the survival of their cattle which was their main source of income.

In Kesi, the situation was worsened by the fact that while their cattle starved and had no water people could see plenty of water and green grass in the nearby Matopos National Park.

They could not understand why their cattle should not be allowed into the park, when game enjoyed green grass and had plenty of water.

Mr Msiipa said that he would discuss with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and

the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement, and Rural Development the possibility of releasing water from a dam in the park.

He said the people of Kesi had also appealed to him to ask the Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development, Mr Moven Mahachi, to allow them to graze their cattle on the land that had been bought for resettlement while the ministry was working out its resettlement plans.

Five boreholes and five dams in Kesi had run dry and 38 dams had dried up or were about to dry up in Gwanda.

Mr Msiipa said plans for Kesi included the building of a dam on Lingwe River and raising the Antelope Dam.

Gwanda will have two dams built on the Tuli River at Tuli Elliot bridge and Tuli gorge.

During the tour, the minister said he had stressed the need for self-reliance and co-operation between the local people and ministry officials.

DROUGHT RELIEF, WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Harare THE HERALD in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Text]

BULAWAYO.

THE Government has made available \$20 million for drought relief in Matabeleland and is intensifying its water development programmes there by removing drilling machines from other provinces, the Minister of Water Resources and Development, Mr Cephas Msipa, said yesterday.

The minister was addressing councillors, officials of various Government agencies and local businessmen at Tsholotsho, about 100 km from here.

Mr Msipa and his deputy, Mr Joseph Kaparadza, are on a two-day tour of water development projects in Matabeleland.

The minister said it was Government policy that no section of Zimbabwe should die of hunger or lack of water.

"We have intensified our activities throughout Matabeleland in order to rescue all people who have been hit by drought.

"We are to sink 140 additional boreholes and establish about 60 water points. Other areas which require water are still being identified by the district councils," he said.

But he warned that the Government could only do so much at a time because of limited funds and a shortage of skilled personnel. It was up to the local authorities to mobilise their people into self-help projects.

Spelling out his ministry's policy, Mr Msipa said the Government was committed to providing rural communities with clean water.

"What is good for the urban people must be good for the rural people. We cannot have two nations, of the 'haves' in the urban areas and 'have nots' in the rural areas."

For development work to progress smoothly there must be peace. He noted that because of "some misdirected bandits", the provincial water engineer was finding it difficult to operate in some areas.

"These water supply projects are for communal people and we trust that the people will protect my staff," he said.

So far four piped water supply schemes had been completed, four more were under construction and 16 had been designed and construction would start in due course.

Mr Msipa said 60 water supplies were being operated and maintained by the Government, hundreds of boreholes had been sunk and equipped with hand pumps. Shallow wells were being lined with concrete as well as being equipped with hand pumps and in some cases windmills.

Mr Msipa and Mr Kaparadza toured piped water projects at Mbumba. They were accompanied by the provincial water engineer, Mr J. B. Norton, a water development technician, Mr Clever Chatora, and the Tsholotsho district administrator, Mr J. Mtutuki.

Mr Chatora said the piped water scheme at Dingane school would involve the use of a windmill to draw water into two tanks.

The water would flow by gravity along pipes to the school and to four water supply points in the surrounding communal area.

"We do not want people to walk farther than 300 metres to get water. About 800 people and their livestock will benefit from the scheme," Mr Chatora said.

Three kilometres of piping was being laid underground, but the cost of the scheme had been cut to about \$11 700 because people had helped by digging trenches.

At Mbumba the scheme supplied piped water up to six kilometres away for about 1 000 peasants and their livestock.

DISCUSSION OF DDT CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

Harare THE HERALD in English 19 May 82 p 6

[From the Letters to the editor: "DDT: The Killer Which Government Must Control"]

[Text] SIR — It was just over a year ago, on April 11, that the main DDT controversy began; although it has been in dispute, in this country, for about five years now.

In case the public has forgotten the issues, I shall list them briefly:

More DDT is used in Zimbabwe than anywhere else in the world. Thus environmental contamination here is critical (cf. amounts of DDT found in fish eagles' eggs as well as in mothers' milk).

It is probable that approximately 20 species will be lost in the next decade.

DDT is dangerous, not only to animals but also to humans, as it is absorbed into the fats of any living organism and accumulates there. If weight loss is rapid and uncontrollable due to illnesses such as malaria or hepatitis or due to drastic dieting, DDT can be released into the blood system.

If a person is carrying 50 mg per kg of contamination, he will release 1 gm for every 10 kg he loses. Death may be caused by a combination of reasons, rather than only malaria or hepatitis.

Of course, DDT is still cheaper than any other pesticide and is necessary for malarial control, but as long as something is

sold in large quantities it will remain cheap.

The altruistic Western countries have banned DDT in their own areas, but are willing to sell DDT to Third World countries to ensure a profit for themselves.

In December I asked for a public statement from the Government; once again I challenge them to state their attitude, in fact make the decision to ban DDT and use the alternatives which are available.

S. Wigham.

Amby.

THE Secretary for Agriculture, Mr E. M. Mupfema, replies:

The Ministry of Agriculture abides by the policy decision, taken in 1971, that organochloride pesticides like DDT should be phased out of use as soon as suitable alternatives become available.

The decision as to whether there is a suitable alternative must be based on proven facts so that the country's economy and production of food are not put at risk.

In the coming season, DDT will not be imported for crop protection use, as no allocation for foreign currency has been

requested or approved. Consequently, because more expensive alternatives to DDT will be used,

the foreign currency available for other agro-chemicals has been reduced.

It should be noted that while the dangers to certain fish-eating and meat-eating birds are well known, no evidence has been found of ill effects on man or other mammals from small accumulations of DDT although there has been an enormous amount of research trying to establish such effects.

The danger postulated by S. Wigham from weight loss during an illness is only speculative: it is based on the possibility that someone who is grossly overweight and has been exposed to a high level of DDT over a long period, so that he has an abnormally high level of DDT in a large amount of fat, may rapidly lose a great amount of body mass including adipose tissue.

Such cases would be very unlikely in Zimbabwe, although a single case has been known.

The ministry is continuing to monitor agricultural products for the presence of DDT and other pesticides.

The results of the survey to date shows that our food is extremely clean and acceptable by world health standards.

Where the pesticide toxaphene was detected in some samples, immediate steps were taken to clear the source of contamination.

Meanwhile, research into alternative pesticides is continuing.

BRIEFS

DROUGHT CATTLE SALES--Bulawayo--In the five months from January to May this year, communal land farmers have sold the Cold Storage Commission 38 022 cattle and received \$5,950 million in payment, a CSC spokesman said yesterday. The communal land farmers also sold 7 383 cattle to other buyers during the five months and withdrew 8 314 from sales when not satisfied with the price offered. Total cattle offered for sale was 53 721, the spokesman said. The average price paid by the CSC was \$156,61, he said. He was asked to comment on remarks made by Mr Keith Harvey, chairman of the Cattle Producers' Association, at a CPA meeting in Harare on Wednesday that the response of the communal farmers to the CSC's cattle rescue operation was "sad." "The CSC purchases for the five months are up by 174 percent over those in the same period of last year, but they are certainly not high enough. The CSC is very concerned that with each day that passes the communal cattle are losing condition in the drought and their cash value is falling," he said. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 5 Jun 82 p 3]

DROUGHT RELIEF FUND--Bulawayo. A drought relief fund for Matabeleland was announced last night by the chairman of the provincial drought relief committee, the Under-Secretary (Development) for Matabeleland North, Mr Jacob Mudenda. This was one result of the committee's inaugural meeting held in Bulawayo yesterday. The fund will be administered by a committee of four, with Mr Mudenda as its chairman. Other members are senior administrative officer for Matabeleland North, Mr B. C. Charlesworth, the provincial medical officer of health for Matabeleland, Dr Alan Pugh, and the provincial social services officer for Matabeleland North, Mr P. G. W. Ball. Mr Mudenda said the fund was in answer to public inquiries on how drought-stricken areas could be assisted. "We agreed as members of the provincial drought relief committee to accept donations in kind and financially," said Mr Mudenda. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 13 May 82 p 1]

CSO: 5000/5755

SUMMER MEASURES ANNOUNCED TO COMBAT POLLUTION

Athens AKROPOLIS in Greek 29 May 82 pp 1, 9

Excerpts Odd and Even Numbers

During the entire month of June, private vehicles will, by turn (odd and even-numbered licence plates), circulate between 5 pm and 5 am in the greater Athens area which is designated from the Aigaleon, Ymittos and Pendelion ridges.

At the same time, circulation of private automobiles and trucks is prohibited from 8 am to 4 pm in the area of the center of Athens which is designated by Alexandra, Ymittos, Khamosterna and Konstandinoupolis Boulevards.

A special case: As Deputy Minister of Press and Information Dim. Maroudas said, the schedule is being changed only for the first 4 days of June because of the panhellenic school examinations taking place at that time. This means that the morning shutdown of the center of Athens will take place at 9 am instead of at 8 am, i.e., one hour later.

Industry Shutdown

1. In June and July, after agreement with representatives of workers and industrialists, the shutdown of operations, by turn, of especially noxious industries located in the greater Athens area, as shown in Table A, is established.

This shutdown, as well as the following, is to be coordinated with the use of the employees' annual vacation schedules.

2. A permanent reduction in the consumption of fuel and in production will take place in a number of industries during the summer (in accordance with Table B).

3. The operations of the following categories of industries will, by turn, be suspended for a period of 7 days a month:

- Brick, tile, etc manufacturing plants.
- Iron, brass and other ore foundries.
- Dye plants of all kinds.

No agreement has yet been reached between the industrialists and workers on the industry schedules. It was decided that for the time being, they may not be changed without the unanimous approval of their organizations.

Special Measures

During the summer, the above measures will be accompanied by the usual special first and second degree measures that will be implemented as has been done in the past during peak atmospheric pollution instances.

The announcement is accompanied by a detailed account of the government's anti-pollution policy for industry, traffic, means of transportation and vehicles. Among the items mentioned are the following:

- Up to the end of 1983, mass transportation means will acquire 100 new trolley buses (plus another 255 by the end of 1984), 650 buses and 60 new ISAP /Athens-Pireaus Electric Railways/ cars. A railway security system is being established and three new train depots will be built. Private vehicles will be assured of the possibility of using liquid gas.
- By the end of 1982, the first vehicle technical inspection center will go into operation.
- In each city planning office of Athens and Salonica, three inspection teams will be set up to oversee the proper operation of boiler rooms in central heating units of all buildings, as well as the inspection of fuels being used.

The announcement finally stresses that the definitive solution to the pollution problem will take time, great study and effort, large expenditures and significant social costs and sacrifices. As an example, it mentions that in London and Los Angeles that had similar problems, systematic efforts were needed that went beyond 10 years.

5671

CSO: 5000/5330

GREECE

DATA ON POLLUTION CONSEQUENCES

Athens AKROPOLIS in Greek 27 May 82 p 1

/Text/ A medical congress recently came out with some disquieting revelations about the consequences of pollution on the health of the residents of Athens. As revealed to parliament yesterday by New Democracy Deputy N. Anastasopoulos, also a doctor, the 8th Panhellenic Medical Congress which took place a few days ago "came out with frightening revelations about the dangers of pollution."

- Infant mortality has reached 27 percent.
- Prenatal mortality has reached 13.8 percent in Athens as compared with 7.95 percent in other regions of the country.
- Miscarriages by pregnant women has tripled in the past 2 years.

Mr Anastasopoulos stressed that the saddest part was that in this particular area, in a few years time cases /of death/ will have increased three or five times or even 10 times, and no one can know what kind of monsters Athenian women will give birth to after years of toxic influences caused by pollution.

Emphasizing this tragic aspect of the pollution problem, Mr Anastasopoulos said that "we must all raise our voices in cooperation and not in protest" and he recommended that an inter-party committee be set up to study the issue.

Minister of Urban Planning Tritsis did not give an answer on the issue of having an inter-party confrontation to the pollution problem and he said that "the tried international measures are controls over industries, restrictions on the use of private vehicles and restrictions on other noxious uses."

5671

CSO: 5000/5330

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DATE FILMED

June 28, 1982